

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 111157Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6195
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 7026

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, PINT, PINS, LA
SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF LAO PROTOCOL

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO CINCPAC

1. I CALLED ON PHENG PHONGSAVAN TODAY TO GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE FORTHCOMING ARRIVAL OF PATHET LAO SECURITY FORCES. PHENG CONFIRMED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED PL TROOPS WOULD BE ARRIVING ON OCTOBER 12 AS HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED AND THAT THERE WOULD BE A SUBSEQUENT ARRIVAL OF PL TROOPS IN LUANG PRABANG.

2. PHENG STATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CABLING SISOUK INSTRUCTING HIM TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. IN ORDER TO MEET THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES OF THE JCIA AND IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE RLG TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PL REPRESENTATIVES.

3. I TOLD PHENG THAT IT HAD BEEN MY UNDERSTANDING THAT A FORMAL REQUEST FOR VARIOUS ARTICLES OF FURNITURE AND VEHICLES WAS TO BE SENT TO US AS WELL AS TO OTHER EMBASSIES IN VIENTIANE. TO MY KNOWLEDGE NO SUCH REQUEST HAD YET BEEN MADE BUT I HAD WITH ME A LIST OF FURNITURE WHICH THE EMBASSY COULD MAKE
SECRET

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AVAILABLE TO THE RLG.

4. PHENG SAID THAT THE RLG'S GREATEST NEED WAS VEHICLES AND THAR FAR HAD TURNED DOWN A REQUEST FROM

SOUVANNA FOR JEEPS AND TRUCKS. I SAID THAT IT APPEARED TO ME THAT FAR'S NEED FOR VEHICLES MUST BE LESSENED NOW THAT THE CEASE-FIRE WAS IN EFFECT AND THAT THE ARMY SHOULD OBVIOUSLY BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH A VERY CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF TRUCKS AND JEEPS. FURTHERMORE, THERE WERE PROBABLY MANY VEHICLES DEADLINED IN VARIOUS GARAGES WHICH COULD BE QUICKLY REPAIRED. I BELIEVE THAT PHENG CLEARLY GOT THE IDEA THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT GOING TO RUSH FORWARD EAGERLY TO PROVIDE JEEPS AND TRUCKS WHEN FAR WAS REFUSING TO DO SO AND WHEN NO OTHER EMBASSY HAD YET BEEN APPROACHED.

5. PHENG INFORMED ME THAT THE PL WERE STILL BEING VERY DISCREET WITH REGARD TO THE NAMES OF THE MINISTERS THEY WOULD PROPOSE FOR THE PGNU. THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW CABINET WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL THE SECURITY FORCES WERE IN PLACE AND THE PL REPRESENTATIVES WERE READY TO COME TO VIENTIANE.

6. I ASKED PHENG WHETHER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THESE SECURITY ELEMENTS WERE CLEAR AND HE REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD BE AS SPELLED OUT IN THE PROTOCOL. THE PL WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL PLOTS AND POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS. THEY WOULD ALSO HAVE TO GUARD AND PROTECT THEIR INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL. IN ORDER TO PERFORM THIS MISSION THEY WOULD IN FACT HAVE TO CREATE A SECRET POLICE, AND EVENTUALLY JOINT PATROLS WITH THE RLG POLICE WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

7. COMMENT. WITH THE APPREHENSIONS WHICH ARE NOW CURRENT IN RIGHTIST CIRCLES, IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE CONCEPT OF A PL SECRET POLICE OPERATING IN VIENTIANE SITS.

WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

SECRET

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